Great Spas of Europe – Baden-Baden
Summer capital & town of historic importance

The town owes its origin to the thermal springs on the southern slope of the Florentinerberg (today’s Schlossberg), as reflected in the original name of the late Roman settlement here: Aquae. From 1306, records show that the hot springs were a royal prerogative. Around 1500, Baden-Baden was already offering twelve bathhouses and almost 400 bathing cabins. After extensive destruction in the Palatinate War of Succession in 1689, Baden-Baden was rediscovered as a spa town by the dignitaries attending the Second Congress of Rastatt in 1797-98. The Franco-Prussian War of 1870-71 and the German Empire’s gambling ban in 1872 triggered another noticeable decline in Baden-Baden’s development, leading the town to resort once again to its original bathing tradition. In the old town, in the immediate vicinity of the thermal springs, two grand bathing temples were built to meet the very latest of demands: the Friedrichsbad in 1869-77 and the Augustabad in 1893.

In the new Friedrichsbad “one may have any sort of bath that has been invented,” noted Mark Twain shortly after its opening. The old baths’ quarter can also be found in the old town featuring the architectural remains of the ancient baths, the former Dampfbad (steam bath) built by Heinrich Hübsch in 1846-48, and the already mentioned Friedrichsbad.

With these assets, Baden-Baden belongs to a group of towns known as the Great Spas of Europe which is currently applying for recognition as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Volkmar Eidloth, Baden-Württemberg State Office for the Preservation of Historical Monuments

By means of the World Heritage walks, Stadtbild Baden-Baden, a society that concerns itself with the town’s urban landscape, invites you to discover more about its heritage.

Printed and distributed in cooperation with:
Information on exclusive guided tours, half-day or full-day guides with certified tour guides from the Baden-Baden Convention & Visitors Bureau is available as follows:
Telephone +49 (0) 7221 275 256 or sales@baden-baden.com

Other World Heritage walks:
1 Historic building culture in the Beutig mansion quarter
2 From guesthouse to grand hotel
3 Kurgarten & Michaelisberg promenading area
4 Mansion quarter in the suburb of Lichtental
5 Mansions around the Paradies
6 The entire town as a World Heritage Site

Landscape, architecture, thermal water and health

Dear Friends of Baden-Baden,
The members of Stadtblid Baden-Baden have made it their business to promote the preservation, maintenance and development of Baden-Baden’s urban landscape and to increase public awareness of these issues.

The former riches of the Bäderviertel (baths’ quarter) was summarised in an assessment by the State Office for Cultural Heritage in 1993:

Today, it is hard to imagine that up until the 1950s the Friedrichsbad was merely one of many key buildings that made up the town’s Bäderviertel. The boundless expanse of today’s Römerplatz provides only a hint as to how this quarter once looked when it included structures such as the Augustabad, the Fangobad, the Inhalatorium and the medieval hospital buildings, before the area’s large-scale clearance in the post-war years.

Subsequent structures have often lacked the necessary quality and therefore it is not surprising that despite its historic importance this area must be omitted from the World Heritage zone. That is why Stadtblid Baden-Baden launched an initiative to establish an architectural advisory committee, approved in 2010, to publically discuss and evaluate important new building projects and make recommendations for their implementation.

On this tour, discover an old town resurrected after its destruction in 1689 and a baths’ quarter with 2000 years of history.

Further information: www.stadtblid-baden-baden.de
Burgstraße with simple 18th-century dwellings. Pictured is a twin-axial loggia with rich neo-Renaissance design above a 17th-century cellar doorway. At the beginning of the 18th century, the Burgstraße was redesigned in 1860 with a two-storey arcade and Moorish-style corner towers on its town side, and a wooden upper floor.

Schlossstraße with the new chancellery, today a residential dwelling with half-timbered roof. A simply designed, attractive admin. building from the town's reconstruction post 1689. The 16th-century building behind was built against the town wall's downward slope of vaulted cellars from the 14th century.

Schlossstraße with the collegiate church's provostcy office. Winged building from c. 1720-40. Richly structured with colossal pilaster strips, an arched doorway flanked by pilasters and attic window surrounds. The most ambitious of the town's collegiate buildings with views onto Marktplatz, Hirschstraße and Schloßstraße.

Hirschrästra beginning with Bad-Hotel zum Hirsch. Well worth seeing is house no. 3 with the year 1709 at the top of the cellar doorway's arch. One of the few authentically preserved baroque buildings from early 18th century. Access to Hirschstraße above a higheingled cellar, doorway in the narrow side with segmental-arch roof.

Baldreit, former bathhouse and hotel with 30 bathing cabins. Today's three-winged building with gabled roof has undergone 19th-century. The courtyard's corner stair case features an 18th-century doorway. First mentioned in 1460. Poor people's bath from 1830-50. Today, a wine tavern and archive.

Büttengasse, starting with Haus-Kindler (1890), a monumental Gründerzeit style building on the corner with Lange Strasse. One of 19th-century Baden-Baden. The two-jamb entrance of a large glass screen. The so-called hypocaust system with its wall and floor heating. The choir survived the 1689 town fire. Rebuilt in 1869 with architect C. W. Witt in 1864. Today, part of the town hall complex. The former Jesuit seminary from 1724 is now a guesthouse.

Lange Straße in part with elaborately designed facades from the Historicism and Gründerzeit periods at the middle/end of the 19th century. The earlier falsified facade appeared with the rise of the spa town in the 19th century. Historic hostellers and hotels are meanwhile used for residential and commercial purposes.

Steinstraße, connecting the Gensbacher Gatehouse and today's spa town. It is the only Guesthouse from the first half of the 19th century to have been preserved. The former Jesuit college built by architect T. Camacins in 1674. Rebuilt after the 1689 town fire by architect D. Rossi. Transformed into a guesthouse in 1869 by architect P. Weinberger. Used as the town hall since 1862. Three-wing property in Renaissance style with baroque influences. Grand staircase in left wing worth seeing.

Baths' tour from Marktplatz:


Quellensäulen, the Friedrichsdorf baths were built the catchment tunnels were real and centralised in the area above the Dornfeld staff steps (2) and the Fechtlquelle thermal spring in the 16th century. The so-called hypocaust system is the only bathhouse from the first half of the 19th century to have been preserved.

Altes Dampfbad built to plans of H. Hubsch in 1846-48 and extended by L. Engesser in 1864. It was a bathhouse for individual cabins and lodging rooms that tapped water from the 'original spring'. The most ambitious of the town's collegiate buildings. The so-called hypocaust system is the only bathhouse from the first half of the 19th century to have been preserved.

Caracalla-Therme, built initially as a replacement building for the Augustusbad (demolished 1962) on the site of the medieval Spal bath and Amtshaus (2005) in the petrol baths. The early 20th-century Fangobad and inhalatorium were also torn down. Top floor removed during its expansion/remodelling to modern thermal baths in 1965.

Spitalkirche, first mentioned in a 1551, replaiced an early 12th-century. Only the choir survived the 1689 town fire. Rebuilt mid 18th century, now all that remains of the medieval church. Planes were kept, when the Augustusbad's replacement was built. Regenerate a 15th-century, red sandstone. Mount of Ulises's sculpture from old graveyard.

Rathaus former Jesuit college built by architect T. Canacins in 1674. Rebuilt after the 1689 town fire by architect D. Rossi. Transformed into the Conversationshaus in 1862 by architect P. Weinberger. Used as the town hall since 1862. Three-wing property in Renaissance style with baroque influences. Grand staircase in left wing worth seeing.

Amtsbad and old police station built in 1842-43 by F. T. Fischer. A well-proportioned, simple structure with neoclassical design and decorated with ancient and gothic elements. Its demolition was prevented in 1976 yet its conversion and extension to a medical centre has distorted its original impression.

Soldatenbäder, hence the Friedrichsdorf further downhill from the empress's baths at Marktplatz, with a hot bath, warm air bath and cold pool and swimming baths. The so-called hypocaust system with its wall and essential heating can be viewed behind large glass screens.

Old town tour from Jesuitenplatz:

Gensbacherstr. – Lange Str. – Büttengasse – Baldreit – Küferstr. – Langenstr. – Hirschstr. – Schloßstrasse – Burgstr. – Schlosskellerte – Schlossbergstr. – Stiftsgasse – Schlossstaats – Marktplatz

Event back in the 14th century, the majority in Strasbourg were advocates of these baths. From the 15th century, they were issuing bathing orders that regulated everything: all water pipes, the secondary use of water from the palace bathhouse and free bathing for the poor at night. The so-called hypocaust system is the only Guesthouse from the first half of the 19th century to have been preserved.